



VOLUME LXXI NUMBER 3

March 2024



EBARC Meetings

March 8, 2024

**Unitarian
Universalist
Church**

Of Berkeley

**Safir Room
1 Lawson Rd.,
Kensington, CA**

Check your email for Zoom link.



The Executive Board meets monthly before each general
meeting at 6:30 PM

Welcome EBARC Members to the third edition of the Blown Fuse for 2024.

Please plan to join us at the meeting on March 8, 2024, in-person or on the
Zoom Link.

Program: Antenna Installation Considerations by Jay Fenton, KJ6WSS

Thanks to members who brought refreshments to the February meeting, Mike
Camp and Karen & Jay Fenton

The Blown Fuse is published monthly by the East Bay Amateur Radio Club, Inc. and is a service provided as part of membership. *The Blown Fuse* welcomes articles of interest to its members and amateur radio in general. *The Blown Fuse* reserves the right to edit or reject any material submitted. Material submitted becomes the property of *The Blown Fuse*. Permission is hereby granted to reproduce material printed herein provided proper acknowledgment is given. Editor: Audrey Nieman W6BBQ
Deadline for April Issue: March 25, 2024.

**Treasurer's Report EBARC
February 29, 2024
Audrey Nieman W6BBQ, Treasurer**

Beginning Balance	
2/09/2024	\$9377.47
Income	
Dues	\$ 404.04
Interest	.03
Total Income	\$ 404.07
Disbursements:	
Post Office Box	\$236.00
Ending Balance	\$9545.54
Portion as Petty Cash	\$ 40.00
Portion as CD	\$5000.00

President's Message

There was a break in the weather a couple of weeks ago where I felt brave enough to climb on my rooftop to advance the installation of a dipole antenna for 80m and hopefully 160m. Progress was made on that effort though, as of this moment, the antenna is not yet installed and functioning. Maybe it will be by the time you read this. While I was up on the roof, I discovered that one of the windier storms in late January had wreaked havoc on my 8 band hexbeam. Conductors for the 40m, the 20m and the 10m bands had been broken by all the flexing the antenna frame did in reaction to the wind gusts. I've made some repairs but still need to verify function. The situation informed me that there is more to antennas than minimizing SWR so that your signal goes as far as it can. Antennas as physical devices, age and deteriorate with the exposure to the elements. They need periodic inspection, repair when warranted, and eventual replacement. I encourage you to inspect your antennas with the improving weather and the longer daytimes. I hope you will find your antennas functional and ready for operating.

Todd Teachout, W8BIK, 2024
President

Minutes of the January Meeting

**February 9, 2024,
General Meeting Minutes**

The hybrid meeting was held at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, Safir room. 1 Lawson Road, Kensington California and on Zoom. The meeting was started by President Todd W8BIK at 7:35 PM. Present at the hall were Vice President Howdy KE6BEE, Treasurer Audrey W6BBQ, Secretary Jan AC5RB, members Karen KK6ZPM, Jay KJ6WSS, Mark KD6MZC, Mike KI7FU, Robin KE6MRH, Trustee Chris AA6AT and Bridget and Isaac Harwood. On Zoom were President Todd, Joe K5EJL, Don NI6A, Robin KN6CRP, Lorraine KN6CRT, DJ KJ6DJ, Rob KK6JNI, Xia K2XIA, Katie KN6APB, Jerry K6KOP, Robin N6RLS and Aaron KN6SMS. President Todd welcomed everyone and asked for self-introductions. He said he was happy to see the Blown Fuse returning. Thank you, Audrey. Chris will be doing a presentation later. Randy Jenkins KA6BQF-SK passed away December 2023. Todd said he wished he could have known him sooner. Randy enjoyed doing technical help for events and an Elmer to many hams in our group as well as CCCC. He was a long- time member in both clubs and will be missed.

WINTER FIELD DAY- There were three set ups, not a lot of contacts. A prospective member, Franciscus Carpes said he enjoyed the learning process. They operated on 5 watts. The set-up was at the UUCB parking lot.

MORSE CODE- Mike KI7FQ said he and others might be interested in setting up a morse code class. Since Morse Code proficiency is no longer required for Licensing, it is not used as much. There would need to be a structure for classes and resources like CW Academy, AARL, Online services. A class is expected to require a call out of the frequencies available and those to be used, equipment needed, schedule for practice, and an instructor. There was a large show of hands of those who would be interested.

Audrey will have information in the Blown Fuse.

PROGRAM – WEBSDR FOR HF Software Radio - Chris Harwood gave a presentation and sampling of the workings of this technology. You don't need a ham license to use it. There are clearer signals and less interference with antennas in public areas. It is radio on a chip. ADC Analog-digital converter, mixes power and CPU resources. Chris set up a 55-foot-long string of LED lights around the room to set up the contacts. Don and Katie helped with remote contacts. The costs can vary from \$30.00 to thousands.

There is a quick start guide website. There is also bogus information out there; for legitimate information, contact Chris.

Minutes continued

TREASURER REPORT- Audrey gave her treasurer report. The beginning Balance, \$8,965.44, income \$412.03 mostly from membership renewals, Expenses \$0.00. Ending Balance \$9,377.47 (\$5,000 in a CD, \$40 in petty cash).

MEMBERSHIP REPORT- Audrey reported that 33 members have paid. She sent out 23 self-addressed envelopes with reminders to those who had not yet paid their dues. We also have two new members. She will also send out more reminders as needed. In March she will put out the new roster.

DLARC (Digital Library of Amateur Radio9 and Communications) STATUS- to archive our bulletins. The EBARC website has digital versions of the Blown Fuse from 2009 to January 2022, Todd has forwarded digital versions to the DLARC curator from February 2022 to October 2022 when the past editor Sharon AA6XZ resigned. There are hard copy issues of the Blown Fuse in storage from about 1964 to 2000. Todd will coordinate with the DLARC curator to put these newsletters in the archive. It would be interesting to be able to add some of that history. **MEETING ADJOURNED 9:04**

Respectfully submitted Jan Kuhl secretary

Membership Report

Thank you to the 43 members who have paid their dues so far. I hope to receive more this week.

We have 4 new members!

Please welcome:

Jim Marks KN6VTC, General class

Keith Newell KG6VLY, General Class

Linda Newell KG6VLX, General Class

Edna Warnecke KN6VTY, General Class

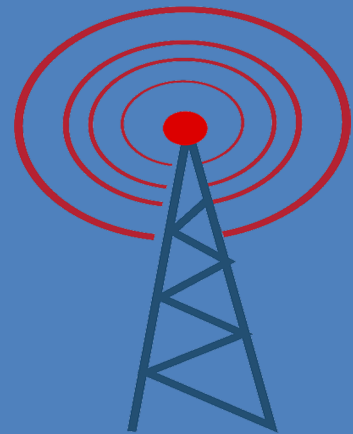
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Acting Membership Chair

PENDING ITEMS

CLUB Station: Still on-hold pending meetings with the UUCB Faith Leader, and Executive Director and/or other UUCB personnel.

Vacancies:

- Membership, 3rd VP
- Blown Fuse Permanent Editor
- Licensed Volunteer Examiners& Testing
- Coordinator Radio Operator License Test Prep
- Instructors Community Support (Sports events, scouting, Maker Faires)



The East Bay Amateur Radio Club, founded in 1947, is a California non-profit organization of amateur radio operators in Contra Costa and Alameda counties. The club is open to anyone interested in amateur radio. Annual dues are \$35 for individual membership, \$45 for a family membership, and \$10 for students K-12. For information, send email to ebham.office@gmail.com, contact any EBARC officer, see Web page www.ebarc.org, or write EBARC, P.O. Box 1393, El Cerrito, CA 94530. You can also follow us on Twitter using @w6cus, or on Facebook's "East Bay Amateur Radio Club."

2024 East Bay Amateur Radio Club Executive Committee

Todd Teachout, W8BIK, President	510-799-6051
Jan Kuhl, AC5RB, Secretary.....	510-846-3829
Howdy Goudey, KE6BEE, 1 st VP / Program Chair	510-684-9097
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, / Acting Membership Chair	510-682-7938
Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ, Treasurer / Finance Chair	510-682-7938

2024 EBARC's Other Committee Heads and Contacts

<i>Blown Fuse</i> Editor: Audrey Nieman, W6BBQ	510-682-7938
W6CUS Trustee Chris Harwood	510-332-7383
Webmasters: Chris & Isaac Harwood	510-332-7383

Bay Area Amateur Radio Nets

Net	Days	Time	PL	FREQ MHZ
Over the Hill Commuter CCCC	M-F	0710	82.5-	145.110
CCCC 220 Net	Tues	1930	82.5+	224.300
WC EMCOMM Net	Thu	1845	82.5	145.110
CCCC Evening Net	Thu	1930	82.5-	145.110
KARO/ECHO EMCOMM NET	Thu	1900	simplex	146.415
NALCO ARES EMCOMM Net	Thu	1915	77-	440.900
ORCA Net	Thu	1930	77	146.880
Bay Area EMCOMM Net	SAT	0900	82.5-	145.110
CCCC WC Net	Sat	0915	82.5-	224.300
Bay Area Comm Net	Sat	0930	82.5+	444.275
Cert FL Digi Net	Sat	1000	82.5+	444.275

Open Source GQRX Software released.

"In an update on the RTL-SDR website today, the popular, open source GQRX software was released for the Windows operating system. So now it runs on Windows, Linux and MacOS.

Thank you to those who showed up! It was fun helping others get on the HF bands for little to no cost. Hopefully some attendees will join in the Thursday night net fun and explore HF.

When my budget allows, I'll try to get an SDRPlay RSPdx and do a comparison to the RTL-SDR."

73, Chris
AA6AT

Highlights from the Past found in Blown Fuse issues of yesteryear:

EBARC Happenings from the March 1999 Blown Fuse (25 years ago)

The March 1999 Presentation was a talk by Bob Fabry, N6EK, about Heard Island and Other DXpeditions. Alan Eshleman, K6SRZ solicited interest in having the club station, W6CUS, operate for the ARRL DX Phone Contest happening March 5-7. Alan was planning on operating started at 4:00PM until the March EBARC meeting then other hours as interest and energy allowed.

Future events were an Ohlone School Emergency Awareness Evening, in Hercules. a "swap meet" at Los Positas College in Livermore, another "swap meet" at Foothill College in Los Altos Hills, and EBARC sponsored ARRL VEC Radio License Test Sessions on the first Sunday of odd-numbered months,

EBARC Happenings from the March 1974 Blown Fuse (50 years ago)

The March meeting was held at Casa Cerrito on Portola Dr., in El Cerrito. Mystery Topic.

First Class Postage was \$0.08. President Eisenhower was the image on the stamp.

The ARRL had a special membership offer. If a club coordinated a group membership effort (renewals and new membership) the club could retain a percentage membership fee for the club treasury. The new/renewing member would write a check to EBARC. Then EBARC would, in turn, forward the membership paperwork to the ARRL and include a single check. The offer helped ARRL retain members and the fewer, larger checks simplified the financial transactions. There was an effort to rename the EBARC Newsletter.

In **Net News** there was an announcement of the Amateur Radio Chess Players Network that met nightly at 2330 Hrs. on 3928 kHz.; A New Directions Roundtable, a current events discussion, happening on Sundays on 14,253 and 2000 GMT or 7163 and 2230 GMT. A CW Code Practice session happened 6 times a week (not on Mondays). Interested parties needed to tune their transceivers/receivers to 3590 at 8PM and listen for the call W6QIE, followed by "now ___ wpm" which was repeated and then followed by 10 minutes of code at the given speed which started at 5 wpm and increased to 25 wpm until 9:30pm.



Silent Key – Randy Jenkins

The following is from Rita Brenden, KG6WPM

It is with profound sadness that I report KA6BQF became a silent key on December 30, 2023. Ham radio was Randy's passion. He loved being a member of many clubs, teaching ham classes, proctoring license exams, participating in public service events, and just talking with other hams. It was a sad day when he was diagnosed with a rare neurological illness that took away his speech, and later his thinking and mobility. His brain is being donated to the UCSF brain bank in the hope that methods for diagnosing rare neurological illnesses can be developed.

Thank you to the ham community for embracing Randy as a friend and mentor.
KG6WPN, Rita Brenden, his companion for 18 years

